

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add new claims 51 through 55 as follows:

51. (new) An apparatus for removing bacteria and polyvalent metal ions from water that comprises:

a vessel having an inlet, an outlet and particulate alumina that contains meta-periodate ions substantially homogeneously sorbed throughout the particles, wherein said meta-periodate ions are present in an amount of about 0.1 to about 0.15 molar in a gravity-settled volume of particles in deionized water.; and wherein the particulate alumina is contained in an alumina holding region.

52. (new) The apparatus according to claim 51 wherein said vessel includes a first flow-permitting support positioned between the outlet and the alumina holding region.

53. (new) The apparatus according to claim 52 wherein said vessel includes a second flow-permitting support positioned between the inlet and the alumina holding region.

54. (new) The separation apparatus according to claim 53 wherein said inlet and outlet are separated from each other.

55. (new) The separation apparatus according to claim 54 wherein said the inlet and outlet are at opposite ends of the apparatus.